

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 9, lines 14-17 and replace it with the following paragraph:

In a further preferred embodiment of the invention the fusion protein carries a protein or peptide affinity tag at its N-terminus and/or at its C-terminus in order to allow easy detection and/or purification of the recombinant protein. Suitable affinity tags are, for example, the *myc*-tag, the FLAG-tag, the His<sub>6</sub>-tag (**SEQ ID NO: 27**), the Strep-Tag® or the HA-tag.

Please delete the paragraphs on page 14, line 26 to page 15, line 2 and replace it with the following paragraphs:

**Figure 1** shows schematic representations of four exemplary expression vectors according to the invention. The vectors illustrated in Fig. 1A and 1B encode fusion proteins consisting of SP-B<sub>ΔC</sub> N-terminally fused to LMW-u-PA (SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 7, respectively). pSPUC1A (Fig. 1A) is derived of pcDNA3.1(-) (Invitrogen), whereas pSPUC1B (Fig. 1B) is derived of pSecTag2A (Invitrogen). Figure 1C illustrates pSPUC2C encoding a fusion protein composed of SP-B<sub>mature</sub> N-terminally fused to LMW-u-PA (SEQ ID NO: 12), wherein this gene fusion is preceeded by a segment encoding the SP-B signal peptide as well as a 6-nucleotide spacer element. Figure 1D depicts vector pSPUC3B encoding a fusion protein consisting of SP-B<sub>mature</sub> C-terminally fused to LMW-u-PA (SEQ ID NO: 13), wherein the LMW-u-PA cDNA is preceeded by a segment encoding the u-PA signal peptide as well as a 6-nucleotide spacer element. **Figure 1A discloses SEQ ID NOS 28-30, respectively, in order of appearance. Figure 1B discloses SEQ ID NOS 31-33 and 27, respectively, in order of appearance. Figure 1C discloses SEQ ID NOS 27 and 34-37, respectively, in order of appearance. Figure 1D discloses SEQ ID NOS 27, 38-40 and 37, respectively, in order of appearance.**